

Britain and of the different colonies. It would seem as though the time appeared to be opportune for the people of Great Britain to earnestly consider if, owing to entirely changed conditions, they can be unmindful of those things which are a factor in the prosperity of the nations which are her greatest rivals for the trade of the world. Her Trade Policy has admirably fitted into the conditions of the past, but is considered by many to be out of date. She now finds nations well equipped and able to share her almost exclusive markets of the past. These nations have an armour in battling against Britain for trade supremacy which she has ignored, and through which she is greatly handicapped in the conflict. She finds herself unable to enter into a Treaty of Reciprocity in trade with any nation, but more particularly with her own colonies, and finds certain of her colonies now obliged to seek trade alliances with foreign countries. Great Britain may be said to have given away everything to every nation in the world, so far as her markets are concerned, without obtaining an equivalent. There are many indications in Great Britain of anxiety regarding the present situation; I could cite numerous instances to show that a feeling of dissatisfaction exists. I will only refer to the words of her most important statesman, relating to her Trade Policy. Lord Salisbury has referred to the question in these words:—

"They are simply acts of fiscal war, but you are now excluded
 "from legitimate acts of self-defence, and as long as you are thus
 "excluded, you may sigh in vain for justice in fiscal matters, at
 "the hands of other nations of the globe."

The same statesman said to the London Chamber of Commerce:—

"We have nothing to offer other nations when making a commercial bargain because, by adopting Free Trade, you have deprived the Foreign Office of the weapons by which alone such bargains can be obtained."

There already exists in Great Britain leagues for the promotion of a Federation of the British Empire under a Customs Union. The present policy affords her no real freedom in trading with other countries, and places her at the mercy of the especially designed hostile tariffs of the world.

The Hon. C. T. Ritchie, President of the British Board of Trade, addressing the Trades' Union Congress, said in reference to Great Britain not holding her own in supplying the markets of the world:—

"It could not be but an anxiety to him to know that every European country of any importance, and also America, has for the
 "past few years been increasing their export trade to a very large
 "extent, while we have been going back."

Jamaica has had under consideration a Treaty of Reciprocity with the United States. Trinidad has appointed a delegation to visit Washington and Ottawa to see what can be done by way of better trade relations. One of the most important exports of these colonies is sugar; Great Britain accepts the bounty-paid sugars from the Continent, and her colonies are forced to appeal to foreign nations for relief. The Government of Canada, recognizing the gravity of the situation, endeavored to relieve the position to some extent, so far as this country was able, and in connection with the tariff changes of 1898, we gave a preference of 25% in favor of sugars, the products of the British Colonies.

The British Empire to-day is without a plan or policy—each part struggling for itself—the weaker parts not strong enough to keep up the fight. Trinidad not only finds herself cut off from the British market through the effect of sugar bounties, but has to face an especially hostile impost of 30% levied by the Republic of Venezuela upon goods from all British Colonies.

In a letter recently received by this Board from the Chamber of Com-